

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend paragraph [0001] as follows:

[0001] This application is a continuation of application Serial No. 09/938,327, filed August 22, 2001, ~~pending,~~ now U.S. Patent 6,719,165, issued April 13, 2004, which claims the benefit of priority of U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/227,176 filed in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on Aug. 22, 2000, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend paragraph [0036] as follows:

[0036] Vessel 100, excluding the end domes 106 and 112, is constructed of ~~a filament-wound~~ filament-wound and resin-impregnated composite material, for example, according to the manufacturing procedures and design information set forth in U.S. Pat. No. 4,118,262 (the '262 Patent'). In contrast to the '262 patent, it is preferred that the filament or tow is helically wound in a conventional manner to impart a longitudinal orientation in the fiber relative to the vessel longitudinal axis 105 such that the angle  $\theta$  corresponding to the axial orientation of the fibers 136 ranges from  $10^\circ$  to  $40^\circ$ . As is known in the art, the vessel 100 is constructed of many such overlapping layers where successive layers may change the angular orientation of their fibers and preferably differ by  $90^\circ$  from the angular orientation of the prior layer.

Please amend paragraph [0044] as follows:

[0044] In accordance with the preferred embodiments and methods, each of the gore pieces 400 comprises fibers oriented in a plus/minus configuration relative to the gore piece longitudinal dimension. In addition, again preferably, the fibers (e.g., 404, 406) in the plus/minus configuration of each of the gore pieces are oriented at a fiber angle  $\lambda$  of between about  $30^\circ$  and  $60^\circ$  with respect to the gore piece longitudinal axis 402, and more preferably the fiber angle  $\lambda$  is about  $45^\circ$ . The plus/minus orientation can permit the gore piece 400 to stretch in two directions, including a first direction that is parallel to vessel longitudinal axis 105 and a second direction that is normal to vessel longitudinal axis 105 without flexing significantly in direct opposition to the fibers forming the helical winding of outer surface 103. This angular

offset of the fibers causes them to form small polygons, e.g., polygon 408, which are generally square, rectangular, rhombohedral, ~~etc.~~ etc., in nature. These polygons are deformable under strain in the plus/minus configuration, so long as a tensile loading vector is not aligned in parallel with the fibers, e.g., along filament line 410.

Please amend paragraph [0062] as follows:

[0062] FIG. 5 depicts a dual-tapering gore piece 500 that can be used on a ~~spherical vessel~~ vernier motor 1000 in place of the combined gore pieces 1010 and 1012. The use of gore piece 500 eliminates line 1016 and provides additional strength.